

CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method of forming a coating on a powdered substrate, which method comprises introducing at least one of an ~~atomised~~ atomized liquid and[[/or]] solid coating forming material and separately transporting a powdered substrate to be coated into at least one of an atmospheric plasma discharge and[[/or]] an ionised gas stream resulting therefrom, and exposing the powdered substrate to the at least one of ~~atomised~~ atomized liquid and[[/or]] solid coating forming material.
2. (Currently amended) A method in accordance with claim 1 wherein the powdered substrate is transported through at least one of ~~the-an~~ an atmospheric plasma discharge and[[/or]] an ~~ionised~~ ionized gas stream resulting therefrom by being dropped under gravity or entrained in a carrier gas.
3. (Currently amended) A method in accordance with claim 1 wherein the powdered substrate is transported through at least one of ~~the-an~~ an atmospheric plasma discharge and[[/or]] an ~~ionised~~ ionized gas stream resulting therefrom by being carried on a support (68).
4. (Currently amended) A method in accordance with claim 3 wherein the support(68) is selected from a fluidised bed, a reel to reel web support [[(68)], a conveyor belt or a vibrating conveyor.
5. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 4 wherein the reel to reel web support is made from a non-woven fabric.
6. (Currently amended) A method in accordance with claim 4[[or 5]] wherein the reel to reel web support for the powdered substrate comprises

two layers of a non-woven fabric material between which, in use, the powdered substrate is sandwiched.

7. (Currently amended) A method in accordance with ~~any preceding claim~~claim 1 wherein at least one of the atomised-atomized liquid and~~[[/or]]~~ solid coating forming material is introduced into at least one of an atmospheric plasma discharge and~~[[/or]]~~ an ~~ionised~~ionized gas stream resulting therefrom by direct injection.
8. (Currently amended) A method in accordance with ~~any preceding claim~~claim 1 wherein the powdered substrate to be coated is selected from at least one of metals, metal oxides, silica and silicates, carbon, polymeric powdered substrates, dyestuffs, fragrances, flavouring powdered ~~substrates-substrates,~~ pharmaceutical powdered substrates and~~[[/or]]~~ biologically active powdered compounds.
9. (Currently amended) An apparatus for forming a coating on a powdered substrate in accordance with the method of ~~any preceding claim~~claim 1, ~~which the apparatus comprises~~comprising a means for generating an atmospheric pressure plasma discharge (20) within which, in use, the powdered substrate to be coated is introduced, an atomiser (74) for providing an atomised coating-forming material within the plasma discharge and means (68, 70, 71, 72) for introducing and or transporting the powdered substrate through the atmospheric pressure plasma discharge (25, 60).
10. (Currently amended) An ~~assembly~~apparatus in accordance with claim 9 wherein the atmospheric plasma is generated between spaced apart parallel electrodes which are either flat, parallel or concentric parallel electrodes.

11. (Currently amended) An ~~assembly~~ apparatus in accordance with claim 10 comprising a first and second pair of vertically or horizontally arrayed, parallel spaced-apart planar electrodes (21, 22, 23, 24) with at least one dielectric plate (27) between ~~[[said]]~~ the first pair (21, 22), adjacent one electrode and at least one dielectric plate (27) between ~~[[said]]~~ the second pair (23, 24) adjacent one electrode, the spacing between the dielectric plate (27) and the other dielectric plate or electrode of each of the first and second pairs of electrodes forming a first and second plasma region (25, 600, which ~~assembly~~ apparatus also comprises a means of transporting a powdered substrate successively through ~~[[said]]~~ the first and second plasma regions (68, 70, 71, 72).
12. (Currently amended) An ~~assembly~~ apparatus in accordance with claim 11 wherein the electrodes (21, 22, 23, 24) are vertically arrayed and the means of transporting the powdered substrate through ~~[[said]]~~ the first and second plasma regions is by way of a reel to reel web support (68, 70, 71, 72).
13. (Currently amended) An ~~assembly~~ apparatus in accordance with claim 11 ~~[[or 12]]~~ wherein each electrode (21, 22, 23, 24) is in the form of a watertight box having a side formed by a dielectric plate (27) having bonded thereto on the interior of the box a planar electrode (26) together with a liquid inlet (28) adapted to spray water or an aqueous solution onto the face of the planar electrode (26).
14. (Currently amended) A coated powdered substrate prepared in accordance with the method ~~of any one of claims~~ claim 1 ~~[[to 8]]~~.
15. (Cancelled)
16. (Cancelled)

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Cancelled)